IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Method, comprising

providing for performing switching between an incoming side and an outgoing side of a switching network element in a telecommunication network including a plurality of access systems employing differing access technologies, ~~said method comprising the steps of:~~

allocating ~~a) allocating~~ access technology-independent identifications to a call resource of said switching network element, requested by a received call employing one of said differing access technologies,[[;]]

defining~~b) defining~~, according to said employed one of said differing access technologies, an incoming logical leg and an outgoing logical leg for said received call by using said allocated identifications for said incoming side and said outgoing side, respectively, and

controlling ~~c) controlling~~ said switching network element for said received call based on said incoming logical leg and said outgoing logical leg.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said call resources comprise at least one of a transcoding service, a macro diversity combining service, an AAL2 switching service, a tone generating service, an echo cancelling service, a compression service and a conference call service.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising

defining a plurality of incoming logical legs ~~are simultaneously defined~~ for a through connection to an outgoing logical leg.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising

providing for at least one of said incoming logical leg ~~and/or~~ and said outgoing logical leg ~~comprise~~ a plurality of subconnections needed for a whole through-connection between said incoming side and said outgoing side.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of subconnections depend on services requested by said received call.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising
controlling a reservation of service resources and a cross-connection handling between service points ~~is controlled on the basis of~~ based on said incoming and outgoing logical legs.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~wherein~~ further comprising
reserving resources ~~are reserved~~ with the same traffic parameters as reserved for a previous service in a service chain of a logical leg.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of subconnections comprise an AAL2 connection and/or an ATM connection.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising
managing a signal processing resource for providing service functions ~~is managed~~ based on said incoming and outgoing logical legs.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising
storing data of said incoming and outgoing logical legs ~~is stored~~ in a memory.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~network element~~ according to claim 10, further comprising ~~wherein~~
permanently storing a leg identification information ~~is permanently stored~~ and creating a leg ~~is created~~ in a start-up phase according to the defined services.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~wherein~~ further comprising providing for the starting point of a logical ~~leg is~~ leg of an AAL2 type, if an AAL2 service is included in said logical leg.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising refreshing said incoming and outgoing logical legs ~~are refreshed~~ based on a refresh request.

14. (Currently Amended) Switching network ~~element for performing~~ element, configured to perform switching between an incoming side thereof and an outgoing side thereof in a telecommunication network including a plurality of access systems employing differing access technologies, said switching network element comprising:

logical~~a) logical~~ resource interface ~~means (3) for allocating a~~ configured to allocate an access technology-independent identification to a call resource requested by a received call employing one of said differing access technologies; and

a leg control ~~b) control means (4) for controlling~~ configured to control a switching operation of said switching network element based on ~~the basis of~~ an incoming logical leg and an outgoing logical leg defined, according to said employed one of said differing access technologies, by the identifications allocated by said logical resource interface ~~means (3)~~ to requested call resources at said incoming side and said outgoing side, respectively.

15. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 14, further comprising ~~memory~~ a memory ~~means (5) for storing~~ configured to store data of said incoming and outgoing logical legs.

16. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 14, wherein said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4) are adapted~~ is configured to mark and store a registration information of a leg to a client who created the leg.

17. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 16, wherein said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4) is adapted~~ is configured to perform control such that only the registrated owner of a leg is allowed to request operations concerning this particular leg.

18. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 14, further comprising ~~connection~~ a connection control ~~means (6, 8)~~ for controlling a switching device ~~means (1, 9)~~ in response to an output of said leg control.~~control means (4).~~

19. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 18, wherein said connection control ~~means (6, 8)~~ comprises ~~ATM~~ an ATM connection control ~~means (6) and AAL2~~ and an AAL2 connection control ~~means (8)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4)~~ is ~~arranged~~ configured to request an AAL2 connection from said AAL2 connection control ~~means (6)~~ according to a requested AAL2 service, and to control said ATM connection control ~~means (6)~~ based on AAL2 connection end points received from said AAL2 connection control ~~means (6)~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 14, further comprising ~~signal~~ a signal processing control ~~means (7) for controlling~~ configured to control an allocation of signal processing resources to service functions based on an output of said ~~control~~ leg control.~~means (4).~~

22. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said service functions comprise at least one of transcoding, tone generation, echo cancelling, compression, announcements, conference call services and macro diversity combining services.

23. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according claim 14, wherein said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4)~~ is ~~arranged~~ configured to determine necessary subconnection end points based on services required for said incoming and outgoing side according to said received call.

24. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said ATM connection ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (6)~~ is ~~arranged~~ configured to supply subconnection end points to said control ~~means (4)~~ based on requested

services required for said incoming and outgoing side according to said received call.

25. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4)~~ is ~~arranged~~ configured to use said signal processing resource control ~~means (7)~~ in order to request service end points for transcoding or macro diversity services needed for said received call.

26. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said processing ~~resource~~ control ~~means (7)~~ is ~~arranged~~ configured to reserve resources with same traffic parameters as were received for a previous service in ~~the service~~ a service chain of a logical leg.

27. (Currently Amended) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said ATM connection control ~~means (6)~~ is controlled by said ~~control~~ leg control ~~means (4)~~ to modify an ATM connection, when a starting point of a logical leg is to be modified due to a change of a bandwidth of an AAL2 subconnection.

28. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 14, wherein said switching element is a radio network controller or an interworking network element of a third generation mobile network.